

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AGR-20 COME-00 L-03 TAR-02 TRSE-00

FRB-02 H-02 SIL-01 LAB-06 CIEP-02 XMB-07 OMB-01 CEA-02

PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

INRE-00 /098 R

DRAFTED BY EB: ORF: FP: FPD: RHKNICKMEYER: ML

EXT. 20635 3/29/73

APPROVED BY EB: ORF: OFP: FPD - MICHAEL P. BOERNER

EA/ PHL - MWALSH

EB/ OT/ GCP - MR. DUNFORD

USDA/ FAS - GWANAMAKER

----- 058887

P 292324 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, US, RP

REF: (A) STATE 047795, APR. 1, 1970 (2) MANILA 2937,

APR 3, 1970

SUBJ: COPRA - PROPOSED REVISION OF EXPORT TAX LAW

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ADVISED BY REPRESENTATIVE OF MAJOR CRUSHER OF PHILIPPINE COPRA IN US THAT PROPOSED REVISION OF PHILIPPINE EXPORT TAX LAW (SEC. 187, INTERNAL REVENUE CODE) WILL MAKE IT ECONOMICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO PROCESS COPRA IN US IN COMPETITION WITH COCONUT OIL PRODUCED IN PHILIPPINES. OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BURTON OF CALIFORNIA, WHERE PROCESSING PLANT IS LOCATED, HAS ALSO CALLED DEPT ON THIS MATTER.

2. AS WE UNDERSTAND PROPOSED REVISION, EXPORT TAX ON COPRA WOULD BE INCREASED FROM 6 TO 8 PERCENT EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1973 WHILE EXPORT TAX ON COCONUT OIL WOULD GRADUALLY BE RE-
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DUCED FROM PRESENT 4 PERCENT TO ZERO. THIS WOULD INCREASE CURRENT EXPORT TAX DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN COPRA AND

COCONUT OIL FOURFOLD.

3. PHILIPPINE COUNTRY DIRECTOR ADVISED FINANCE SECRETARY
CESAR VIRATA OF CONCERN OF US PROCESSOR IN COURSE OF CON-
VERSATION MAR 28, BUT VIRATA WAS NON- COMMITTAL.

4. EMBASSY REQUESTED DETERMINE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE STATUS
OF PROPOSED REVISION. IN VIEW OF LIKELY SUDDEN DISRUPTION

OF THIS ACTION ON US CRUSHING INDUSTRY, WOULD ALSO APPRE-
CIATE EMBASSY' S VIEWS ON POSSIBLE EFFECT OF US REPRES-
ENTATIONS TO GOP ON THIS QUESTION. ROGERS

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